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INFORMATION BULLETIN

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'Documenting the Struggle for Equality': The NAACP's Visual Archives

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JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
JOHN J. KOZAR, Publisher

Taking the Next Step:

British Ambassador Discusses the Future of the European Union

Yusef El-Amin

Sir John Kerr in a lecture sponsored by the Humanities and Social Sciences Division predicted that the European Union will gain members from Eastern Europe and become more decentralized.

Ties among member states of the European Union will grow stronger in the future, while the Union will broaden as it begins to admit neighboring states of Eastern Europe as members. At the same time, the economic and geographic dichotomy of Europe will shift from an East-West axis to a North-South axis.

Making these predictions was Sir John Kerr, British ambassador to the United States, who lectured on June 7 before a capacity crowd in the Mumford Room. The lecture was sponsored by the Humanities and Social Sciences Division.

Joking that "predictions are dangerous, particularly about the future," Sir John nevertheless set out what he believed to be the most likely scenario for the development of the European Union (EU).

One current trend in planning the EU is a move away from the European model that was popular during the 1980s, when planners believed they needed an extensive program to deal with the continent's social problems. Instead, officials now recognize that such a program would be impractical, requiring a central government on a scale that the European Union could never support, Sir John said.

Another priority for Europe is to increase its competitiveness in the job market. According to Sir John, unemployment in Europe averages more than 10 percent; in some countries, such as Spain, it is more than 20 percent. Creating jobs in Europe is difficult. One reason, he said, is the high nonwage cost of labor, caused by such factors as employee benefits and the expense of hiring and firing workers in a bureaucratic environment. Moreover, linguistic and cultural differences among various member states limit flexibility in the labor markets, thus preventing the kinds of labor migrations that occur in America.

Sir John predicted there would be a population shift, with the number of people in the south doubling by the year 2020 as a result of immigration from North Africa, bringing with it an increase in the problems associated with Islamic fundamentalism. Meanwhile, the population in the northern countries will decline, owing to a reduced birthrate and an aging population. Like America, Europe will experience an increase in the proportion of its population that is older than 65, which will create a financial burden on younger generations.

As the European Union absorbs Eastern European countries, it will face problems similar to Germany's after its reunification. According to Sir John, 12 countries applying for membership in the European Union have a total of 100 million people with an average per capita income that is only one-fourth that of EU members. Among the factors necessary for a successful expansion of the union, the level of agricultural subsidies will have to be reduced and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will have to be adjusted, Sir John said.

As for economic and monetary policy, he predicted that the move toward a single monetary policy and a common currency will continue, but slowly. A common currency will be introduced, probably in 2002, but only in countries that meet criteria for deficits and levels of debt by the time a final decision is made, in 1998. According to Sir John, Luxembourg is the only country that currently meets the criteria. Surprisingly, in spite of its deficits and national debt, the United States would qualify, he said. He noted that Great Britain and Denmark are not yet committed to using a common currency, and it would probably be some time before it is politically acceptable in those countries.

"For those who follow such

Kerr

Continued from page 3

things," Sir John listed three sets of meetings he believes will be significant in determining the future of the European Union. First, negotiations on EU expansion are scheduled to begin in about six months. Second, a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will be reviewed toward the end of the decade. Third, a reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, which sets levels for agricultural subsidies, probably will take place during a financial review in 1998-99, he said.

Sir John envisions a European Union with deeper ties among sovereign member countries and more members, but still no central government. Europe will remain confusing and difficult for other parts of the world to deal with, he said, but its minds and markets will remain open, and it will continue to defend the same Western values and maintain the same balance between freedom and law.

Sir John would not even guess about the long-term future of the European Union. Instead, he likened his work of helping to create the Union to that of a medieval cathedral builder who placed stones where they belonged, never knowing what the finished structure would look like decades later.

Sir John, born in Grantown-on-Spey in Scotland in 1942, was educated at Glasgow Academy and Pembroke College, Oxford. After joining the Foreign Service in 1965, he worked in various roles on NATO defense issues. In 1984 and 1986, he accompanied Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to meetings with President Reagan at Camp David. In 1990 he became the United Kingdom's permanent representative to the European Union. In addition, he served as the Foreign Secretary's personal representative in the Inter-Governmental Conferences, which negotiated the Maastricht Treaty in 1991. He became ambassador to the United States in 1995.

Dr. Billington, who introduced the ambassador, noted that former Sen. J. William Fulbright, had also attended Pembroke as a Rhodes Scholar. In turn, Sir John pointed out that Sen. Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) had attended Pembroke as a Rhodes Scholar as well, and the ambassador joked that for a time he was hopeful that Pembroke graduates would take over the entire Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Dr. Billington also noted that relations between the Library of Congress and the British government have vastly improved, since their "rocky beginning" (when the British burned the Library during the War of 1812, when it was housed in the U.S. Capitol). *—Mark F. Hall*

Mark Hall is a cataloger in the Copyright Office.

Library Publishes *French Posters From World War 1* CD-ROM

The Library of Congress has just published a compact disk (CD-ROM) containing images of its entire collection of *French Posters from World War I*. A total of 284 digital images show posters dating from 1914 to 1921, from the start of the war to the period of reconstruction after the signing of the treaty of Versailles. Elena Millie, curator of the poster collection, assisted by Kelly Blythin, completed the introductory text and compiled the annotated checklist for the publication.

During World War I, posters were for the first time used as a primary tool of propaganda, and French World War I posters, from a country with a strong tradition in the arts, set the standard for war poster design. Fifty years earlier, Jules Chéret had transformed the commercial poster, or broadside, into an art form that set off a poster craze in France. The flamboyant, colorful images that he produced, mainly for cabaret or other performances, took Paris by storm. Influenced by the creations of Chéret, other artists like Steinlen, Willette, and Guillaume began designing posters in a similar vein. They were among the artists who produced masterly posters supporting the French cause in the First World War.

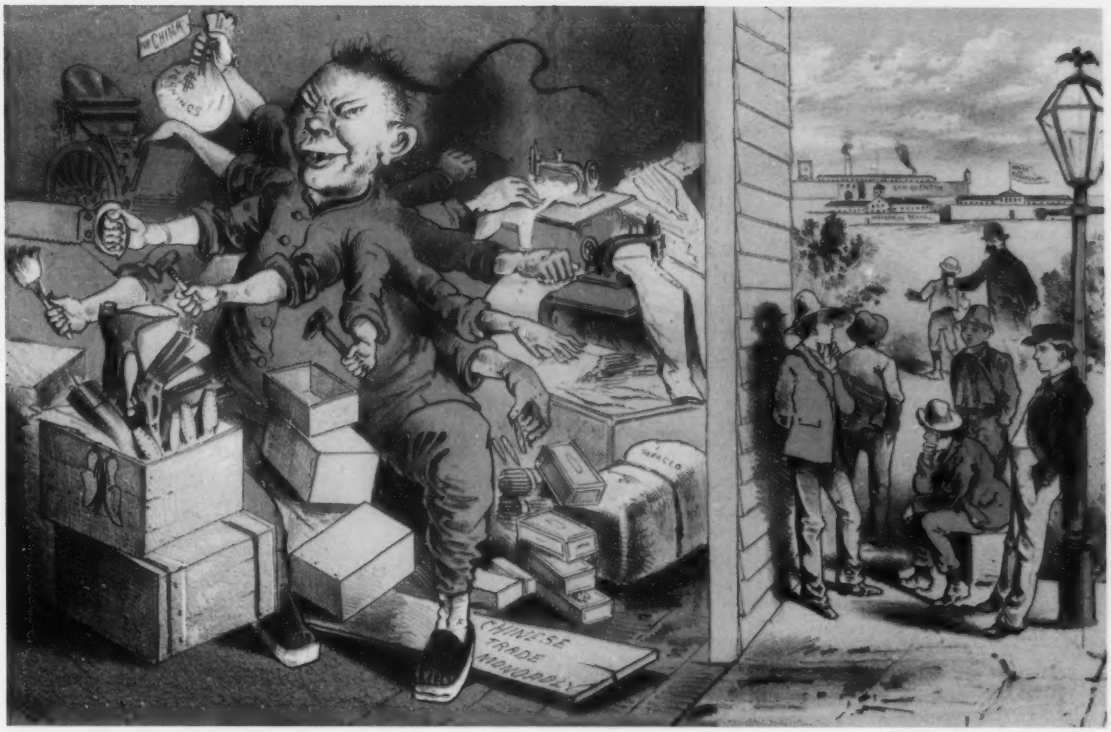
Looking at these posters, the viewer can trace the war's causes and crises in the poignant messages conveyed by each image. The pleas were effective not only in mobilizing citizens to serve but also in mobilizing those on the homefront to produce supplies for the soldiers in the trenches. Voicing ardent messages such as "On les aura" ("We'll get them") or "Sauvons les" ("Let's save them"), French posters awakened citizens to the urgency of the war.

The majority of the posters were produced for the various war drives calling for donations to help win the war. More unusual is a wonderfully fresh series of designs by French schoolchildren calling for the conservation of fuel, cigarettes, bread, and even wine. The conflict over the separation of Alsace and Lorraine is addressed as are social issues such as the epidemic of tuberculosis and venereal disease. Films about the war, exhibits of war art, and special gala evenings were also advertised to gain support for the war.

French Posters from World War I, a CD-ROM, is available for $20 from the Library of Congress Sales Shop or, citing stock number S/N 030-001-00164-4, from the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954; fax (202) 512-2250. This 4 3/4-inch computer laser optical disk requires a CD-ROM drive and either a 386- or 486-based IBM PC with 4MB application RAM, DOS 3.3 or greater, and Windows 3.1 or better, or a 68020-based Macintosh or later with 2MB application RAM and System 7.0 or better.

The Evolving Image of Chinese-Americans:

Multimedia Show and Lecture Highlights Political Cartoons



Bancroft Library, Univ. of California

This 19th century cartoon with the caption, "What Shall We Do with Our Boys?" was just one of many discussed in a lecture by Phillip Choy and Lorraine Dong.

Sponsored by the LC Asian American Association (LCAAA) as part of the Library's celebration of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, Philip P. Choy and Lorraine Dong on May 28 presented a multimedia show of slides that flashed on the screen in rapid and synchronized sequence from four projectors to the accompaniment of recorded music.

Kio Kanda, president of the LCAAA, welcomed the audience and introduced Mr. Choy of the Chinese Historical Society of America and Ms. Dong of San Francisco State University, co-authors with Marlon K. Hom of *The Coming Man: 19th Century American Perceptions of the Chinese* (Seattle and London, University of Washington Press, 1995).

The subject of the presentation, and of the book, is how early Chinese immigrants were depicted in illustrations and cartoons published during this period, revealing how they were perceived and treated by mainstream America.

Ms. Dong explained that many of the slides shown were made from illustrations collected by Mr. Choy over a 30-year period. The majority were from articles that had appeared in American newspapers and magazines between 1869 and 1900, including *Harper's, Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, The Wasp* and *Puck*. During this period, tens of thousands of Chinese came to the United States, first drawn by the discovery of gold in California, then recruited to work on the transcontinental railroad and, later still, going to work on farms or in industry.

With the rise of unemployment among white workers, the anti-Chinese movement gained in momentum and culminated in the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and other related laws passed between 1884 and 1904. The

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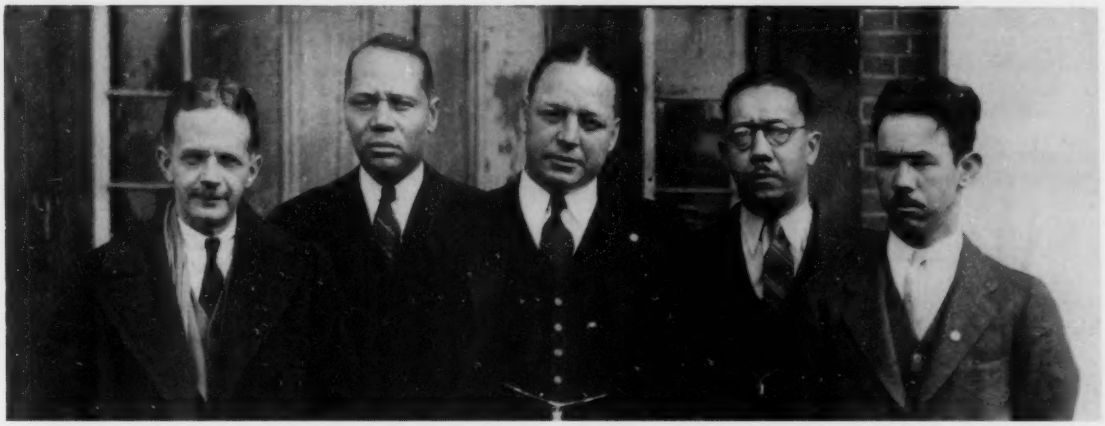
Documenting the Struggle for Equality:

NAACP Visual Archives Now Available at LC



NAACP defense attorneys for the George Crawford case (left to right): Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP; Charles Houston, chief defense counsel; James G. Tyson, Leon A. Ransome and Edward P. Lovett

by Drew Linginfelter

A 4,500-image collection of photographs, prints, drawings, cartoons and posters that tell the story of the efforts of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is now available for research at the Library.

The archives, which date from about 1838 to 1969, provide a rich visual record of the history of the Association and African Americans' rights in the United States.

"Photographs of branch activities are interesting, said Mary Mundy, a cataloger in the Prints and Photographs Division. "Those unposed situations give a sense of the office environment and how NAACP staff interacted and worked within the larger community."

Portraits of NAACP staff, pictures from conferences and pictures of fund-raising and membership campaigns make up more than half of the collection.

The rest of the photographs represent the NAACP's promotion of civil rights legislation through litigation, public protest and sustained monitoring and reporting of injustices. Photographs of black lynching victims, defendants in civil rights cases, inferior school buildings, discriminatory signs ("white", "colored") and segregated public facilities provide haunting evidence of the need for their all-out efforts.

"Staff and field workers used images to publicize injustices and garner broader support for the organization's efforts. Many of these images were reproduced in NAACP publications — the *Crisis* and the *Branch Bulletin* — which increased their visibility among members living in the North and South," Ms. Mundy said.

Photographs from the World War II era document the Association's efforts to integrate the armed services. Included are pictures of the U.S. Army Air Force's all-black 99th Fighter Squadron and of black women contributing to the war effort on the homefront and abroad.

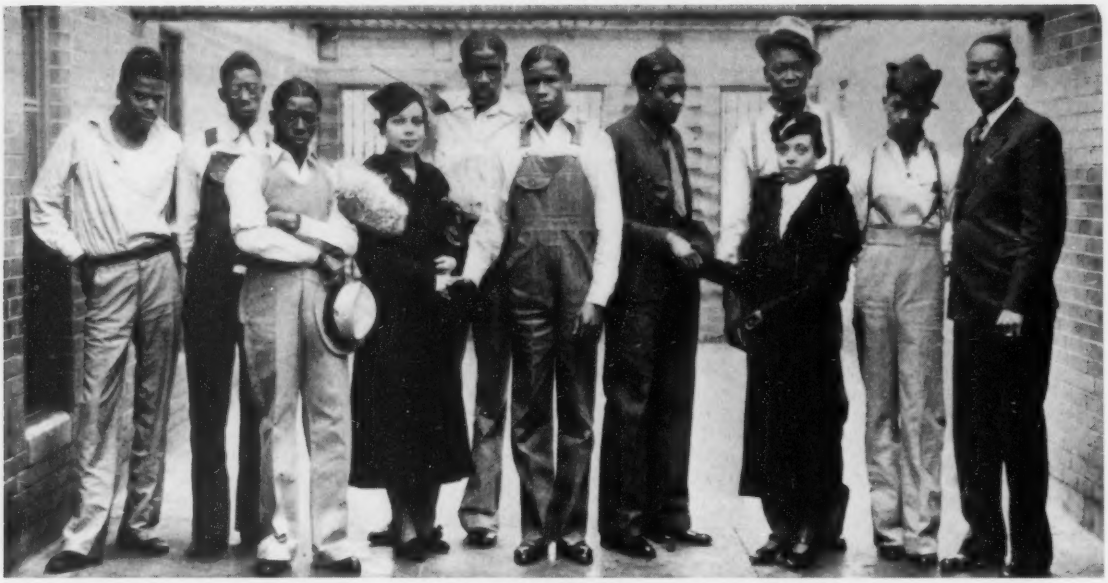
Cartoons in the collection provide commentary on issues of concern to the NAACP, and illustrations and posters advertise NAACP membership drives and social events.

From the first "call" issued by Oswald Garrison Villard in 1909, which formed the National Negro Committee or the Committee of the Forty — which later changed its name to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People — the association has sought equal treatment for African Americans before the courts, in the workplace and on the battlefield. If a picture is worth a thousand words, the collection now available has myriad stories to tell.

The collection documents visually how African Americans put their talents to work for the association. Thurgood Marshall served the NAACP for the first time in 1936 as special assistant counsel. In 1940, he became head of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, an independent organization. During the next 20 years, he argued 32 cases before the Supreme Court and assisted in writing 11 other briefs sent to the court.

One picture in the collection shows Marshall addressing the annual

Eleanor Roosevelt presenting the Spingarn Medal to Marian Anderson, 1939.



Miss Juanita Jackson (above) visiting the Scotsboro Boys, January 1937.

Mrs. Beulah Merton, 29, widow of the gun victim Clinton Merton, is interviewed in her home by NAACP Field Secretary Medgar Evers. Mr. Merton was killed at the gas station where he worked, after an argument over a purchase, December 1955.

NAACP conference in Dallas where, according to the caption on the photo, he "ripped faithless politicians." He delivered his speech just one week before going to the Supreme Court to argue *Sweatt v. Painter* in 1950. The decision in this University of Texas Law School segregation case made clear that separate-but-equal facilities in higher education were not attainable.

Four years later, the Legal Defense Fund turned its attention to elementary and secondary schools in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* in 1954. This case reversed the decision made in *Plessy v. Furguson* (1896) and set forth that separate-but-

JESUS SAVES
CALVARY CHURCH
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
REV. W.T. MILLER, PASTOR
THIS CHURCH IS THE KEY TO MORNINGSIDE
WE DO NOT WELCOME THE COLORED

Church pickets, Fort Worth, 1956

equal facilities at any level were not equitable.

Other photographs relate to African American performers. One shot shows Eleanor Roosevelt presenting the Spingarn Medal — an annual award for achievement — to Marian Anderson in 1939. Anderson was the first black to sing with the New York Metropolitan Opera.

In 1939, she was the center of a national controversy. Because of her race, the Daughters of the American Revolution refused Anderson the use of its Constitution Hall for a concert in Washington. As a result, Eleanor Roosevelt resigned from the DAR and helped sponsor another concert for Anderson at the Lincoln Memorial. Later, Anderson served as alternate delegate to the General Assembly of the United Nations. In 1963 she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Ms. Mundy said most of the items in the collection were in good condition when they came to Prints and Photographs. What made the cataloging an interesting challenge was the absence of captions on many photographic images. "To augment the research value of the collection, we attempted to identify people and events depicted using the *Crisis* and *Branch Bulletin* which published many of the photographs. We were able to find captions for the majority of unidentified materials in this way," she said.

It took about a year to sort the photographs and other images into useful groups. The collection is divided into nine categories reflecting the NAACP's activities and interests. Within these broad categories, material is sorted into 49 subject groupings varying in size from six items to more than 900 and reflecting topics such as conferences, voter registration, women in the military, etc. Within these smaller groupings, items are arranged either chronologically — to follow the development of a subject over time — or alphabetically. To find specific items of interests, researchers can look through a folder-level finding aid or gain access to prominent subjects and find people depicted within 49 image groups through records available on the Library's on-line catalog.

The collection is available for use, primarily through a 19-reel microfilm surrogate, in the Prints and Photographs Division Reading Room in the Library's Madison Building. Copies of the microfilm can be purchased from the Photoduplication Service.

Because many of the photographs and other images originally came to the NAACP from a variety of sources, such as wire services and independent photographers, copyright restrictions may apply to the publication or duplication of some originals.

The finding aid is now available on the Library's World Wide Web site as part of an Encoded Archival Description Finding Aid Pilot Project (http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ead). The Library has held off on digitizing the images because of copyright issues related to Internet distribution, but the availability of the on-line finding aid will permit increased access to the historic collection.

—Drew Linginfelter, a student at Brigham Young University, worked in the Office of Communications.

Enlarging the Circle:

Heritage Month Lecture Explores Panethnicity

In her May 15 lecture, delivered as part of the Library's celebration of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, Bonnie Oh, professor of Korean Studies at Georgetown University, referred to Yen Le Espiritu's 1992 book *Asian-American Panethnicity,* noting that this would be a good title for her talk. The subject, she said, is one she has been contemplating for some time and has assumed even greater importance to her with the birth of her grandchildren.

Dr. Oh spoke about seeing two images contrary to the concept of Asian American panethnicity: one in an old movie on the internment of U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry during World War II, showing a sign in a shop window: "We Are Chinese"; the second a picture of Los Angeles policemen guarding Little Tokyo during the 1992 Los Angeles riots, while nearby, flames were consuming a Korean neighborhood.

Asians, Dr. Oh noted, have rarely thought of themselves as being a single people, but she feels she is not being overly optimistic in talking about Asian panethnicity. "It is something we have to achieve in order to win our grandchildren a place in the sun," she said.

Dr. Oh defined the term Asian American as including Asians and Pacific Islanders of Asian origin, whether American-born, or immigrants who arrived before or after the mid-'60s, but excluding the "sojourners" who have come to the United States without any intention of settling. She said the term first was used on college campuses during the mid-1960s, when Asian American students rejected the term "Oriental" as one that symbolized their common fate in American society.

According to Dr. Oh, people who "remain ethnic" when struggling as a separate group may gain greater rewards. But the opposite is also true: Once economic and sentimental reasons disappear, people enter the American mainstream. Ethnic self-identification is largely voluntary, but the larger society also puts people into categories such as African American, Asian American, Native American, Latino and Hispanic, she said.

As to why people remain ethnic or "become panethnic," Dr. Oh said that panethnicity involves shifting to larger affiliations and uniting to protect and promote collective interests. The problem is how to construct large-scale affiliations and create broader goals. The task may seem impossible at first. For example, the diversity among Asian Americans can be a hindrance to unity, as can class and gender gaps and differences in education and economic class. Traditional male domination among Asian cultures can also be a factor, and deep-rooted historical enmities and typical Asian attitudes such as passivity or the tendency not to take initiative can all impede collaboration. But Dr. Oh remained optimistic that shared historical ties and experiences can bring Asian Americans together.

For example, many Asian Americans reflect on their ancestor's, common suffering from prejudice in American history, she said. By the middle of the 19th century, anti-Asian activities took the form of official government sanctions as well as violence against East Asians by private citizens. She mentioned the hasty internment of West Coast Japanese during World War II, carried out by an Executive Order signed by President Roosevelt, which was upheld by the Supreme Court, the traditional guardian of civil rights.

Dr. Oh urged Asian Americans to strive for unity above all. The challenge now is to become citizens, to register to vote and to help get out the vote. Closing, she cited the example of Gary Locke, an Asian-American running for governor of Washington State, whose campaign motto is "Help Us Make History."

—Mya Saw Shin

Cartoons

Continued from page 221

so-called "Chinese question" was an important issue in U.S. politics, and its evolution is reflected in the changing tone of popular media. A major turning point came when China and the United States became allies in the face of Japanese military aggression in Asia and President Roosevelt signed the repeal of the act in 1943.

Initially, the illustrations show a benign attitude of anxious white Americans toward the Chinese as cultural curiosities. Later, with the growth of Sinophobia, the attacks on Chinese became more racist and discriminatory, as can be seen in the caricatures and stereotypes of the later cartoons. When popular sentiment then turned against the Japanese, attitudes toward the Chinese became more favorable, and they were depicted in a positive and even heroic light.

Mr. Choy said that the illustrations show how readers could be manipulated by popular literature and that Americans should be wary of letting history repeat itself.

—Mya Saw Shin

Mya Saw Shin is a senior legal specialist in the Law Library

'Berkeley' Law:

LC Cataloger Goldberg Selected as Senior Robbins Fellow

Last December, Jolande Goldberg, law classification specialist in the Cataloging Policy and Support Office, was selected as a Senior Robbins Fellow by the Robbins Collection of the Law Library at Boalt Hall, School of Law, University of California at Berkeley.

The honor included a stipend for conducting research at UC-Berkeley in various legal systems to develop the corresponding law classification, enabling her to continue work begun at the Library of Congress.

As part of the fellowship, Dr. Goldberg spent last March conducting a full review of the Robbins Library's preeminent collection of Canon law, Roman law and other historic legal systems. With materials ranging from incunabula to the most recent publications, the Robbins Library is second only to the Vatican Library as an important center for study of these legal systems.

Dr. Goldberg completed her review of the collections using a printout of cataloging records provided by the library staff. This review led to a better understanding of the relationship among Canon, Roman, medieval, modern civil and international law, as well as an understanding of the relationships among existing schemes and older practices at the Library in classes BR-BX. She presented a draft thesis during meetings with Tom Reynolds, associate law librarian, Lucia Diamond, collection development librarian for the Robbins Collection, and Professor Laurent Mayali, director of the Robbins Collection, who established the stipends for the Senior Robbins Fellowships.

These meetings focused on the conceptual framework for a civil law library and research center organized using the LC classification schedule and how to achieve this goal. Besides the decision to reclassify the collection according to the Library of Congress classification system, a decision was made to split the existing law collections at Boalt Hall into civil and common law divisions.

Jolande Goldberg and Thomas Reynolds, associate librarian at the University of California at Berkeley, working in the school's law library.

The Robbins Collection would then include all materials organized by the classification schedules K (Comparative Law, Philosophy, etc.), KB-KBX (Theocratic Law), KJ-KKZ (Law of Europe, including European Community/European Union and all countries of Europe), all Asian-African civil law jurisdictions of Class KL-KWX and KZ (Law of Nations, including Boalt Hall's very extensive United Nations collection). The splendid Robbins Collection of sources on Roman, Germanic, Canon/Ecclesiastical and Jewish law will form the historic foundation of the Civil Law Library and Research Center at Boalt Hall.

While Dr. Goldberg was there in March, the Law Library at Boalt Hall began its reclassification project to convert to the LC classification system, starting with KK-KKC, Law of Germany, and KJ-KKZ, Law of Europe. Dr. Goldberg provided three workshops for staff, directors and collection development librarians, as well as technical sessions for the cataloging staff. The reclassification project to use the LC law classification system will be conducted in-house, hiring additional catalogers once the library moves into its expanded quarters.

Dresden Exhibit Closes July 13

The result of four years of collaboration between the Library and the Saxon State Library, "Dresden: Treasures from the Saxon State Library" showcases rare treasures of German and European history and culture from the High Middle Ages, Renaissance and Romantic periods . The exhibition contains drawings, manuscripts, musical scores, as well as other important letters and books. The exhibition will close on July 13. For those unable to see it in person, it is available on the World Wide Web at http://www.loc.gov/ exhibits/dres

Defining a Quilt:

Folklife Center Contributes to New Encyclopedia

Four Folklife Center staff and two former staff contributed to *American Folklore: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Jan Harold Brunvand, a massive new volume with entries ranging from "Academic Programs in Folklore" to "zydeco."

Peter Bartis contributed the entry on the "holler"; Mary Hufford on "cultural conservation" and "hunting"; Alan Jabbour on the "American Folklife Center," the "Archive of Folk Culture" and "fiddle music"; and David Taylor on "boatbuilding." Former staff Paula Johnson and Howard W. Marshall wrote on "maritime folklore," "vernacular architecture" and "cultural landscape."

Jonas Dovydenas

Mary Ellen Bowens and her strip-pieced quilt, Chicago, 1977. American Folklife Center photo used to illustrate the entry "quilt making" in *American Folklore: An Encyclopedia*.

The subject of folklore is greatly misunderstood. Definitions have varied over time and from place to place. Some have even questioned the existence of an American folklore. This 992-page volume is a comprehensive general reference work intended for scholars, students, writers and the general public that demonstrates the wide range of topics that may be considered folkloric: custom, games, myth, proverbs, chants, and tales; cowboys, loggers, and watermen; basketmaking and boatbuilding; blues and bluegrass, and innumerable others. Other entries describe the history and practice of folklore research and theoretical concepts associated with the study of it.

Photographic research for *American Folklore* was conducted at the Library of Congress, and most of the book's 200 illustrations come from the collections of the American Folklife Center and the Prints and Photographs Division. The price is $95 from Garland Publishing, telephone: (800) 627-6273.

Award-Winning Programs Focus on Communication

The Global Library Project, a cooperative effort between the Library of Congress and Jones Intercable's Mind Extension University (MEU), is now in its fourth award-winning season. The goal of the project is to create documentary television programming that illuminates the importance of the Library of Congress, its collections and staff, while fostering an appreciation of libraries and the benefits of lifelong learning.

The programs can be viewed on Jones Intercable's MEU channel. As cited in a feature story on the Global Library Project in the January issue of *Cable in the Classroom*, in 1996 the project will "present a 13-part series tracing the historical development of new modes of human communication and their global impact. Hosted by Michael Dorn ['Star Trek: The Next Generation' and 'Deep Space Nine'), each episode examines a different method of human communication, from nonverbal pictures and music to printed and electronic transmission of works. Using the vast resources of the Library of Congress, the series shows vivid examples of each form of communication and its impact on world history." That series, "Communication: The Human Imperative," has already received much acclaim.

Robert Fiveson, producer/director and head of the Global Library Project, points out that the first show in the series, "Freezing Time: Photography As Visual Archeology," was recently reviewed by *Cable World Magazine*, an industry trade publication, in an article called "A Tour de Force." Other programs in the series will focus on Written Language; Music; Printing; Telephone, Telegraphy and Radio; Icons and Symbols; Cross-Cultural Communication; Movies and Television; Coded Communication; and conclude with emerging Digital Communications.

With only half the series completed, it has already won the prestigious Telly award for quality nonnetwork or cable programming, as well as an award for "The Advancement of Learning Through Broadcasting" from the National Education Association.

Guests appearing in the series thus far include photographers Mary Ellen

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The Year in Review:
Library Publishes 1995 Annual Report

The *Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress* for 1995 has just been released to the public. It was submitted to Congress earlier by Librarian James H. Billington and accepted by the legislative body. The report, for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1995, describes the Library's activities in Washington and in national and international outreach programs.

Of particular note in the Librarian's report is the high level of service to Congress during a year marked by a change in congressional leadership. The Congressional Research Service responded to 592,731 requests and provided timely and objective analysis of a wide range of legislative issues such as welfare and health care reform. In response to a request from House congressional leadership for an Internet-accessible legislative information system, the Library developed the THOMAS system. On Jan. 5, Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) unveiled the system, which is available free of charge, 24 hours a day, to Internet users throughout the world at http://www.thomas.loc.gov.

On July 11, the Library celebrated the 125th anniversary of the landmark legislation that placed the U.S. Copyright Office in the Library of Congress. Approximately 800,000 items are added annually to the Library's collection through the copyright registration and deposit process.

During the year, the size of the Library's collection grew to 108,433,370 items (an increase of more than 600,000 items) while its arrearage of unprocessed material was reduced by 2.5 million items. The holdings of the Manuscript Division were strengthened by microfilming papers of the Marquis de Lafayette (18,000 items) from the collection of the Comte de Chambrun. The Manuscript Division also recovered four Walt Whitman notebooks, missing since World War II.

The National Digital Library Program was launched in October 1994, with the goal of digitizing 5 million items from the Library's core American history collections by the year 2000. A public-private partnership was formed to raise the $60 million needed to achieve this goal. By year's end, the private sector had made gifts and pledges of nearly $19 million, while Congress had earmarked the first installment of $3 million for fiscal year 1996.

On Sept. 7 and 8, the Library welcomed President Jean Favier of the Bibliothèque nationale de France for a preview of the major exhibition "Creating French Culture: Treasures from the Bibliothèque Nationale de France." Brief displays of the Gettysburg Address and Thomas Jefferson's working draft of the Declaration of Independence also drew large crowds. These three exhibitions, along with two others, were made available on the Library's World Wide Web site, bringing the total to 10 on-line exhibitions.

Civilization, the Magazine of the Library of Congress, made its debut in October 1994, and amassed 200,000 subscribers during its first year of publication.

At year's end, the Library engaged consultants to assess its long-term collections security program. The Library effected several additional security measures such as a substantive reduction in the number of people with authorized access to the general collection stacks and the placement of antitheft targets in an additional 1.8 million books (bringing the total of targeted volumes to more than 3 million).

These and other activities are described in the 1995 report, which has been expanded to include extensive appendices and statistics. The 174 page paperbound publication is available from the Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954, for $7.50. Cite stock number S/N 030-000-00272-5 when ordering.

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Information Bulletin 84LC01

News from the Center for the Book:

South Carolina Center Approved

The Library has approved a proposal for a South Carolina Center for the Book that will be affiliated with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. It will be located at the South Carolina State Library in Columbia, and co-sponsored by the State Library and the College of Library and Information Science at the University of South Carolina, also in Columbia.

"We are very pleased to have South Carolina join our family of affiliated state centers," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole. "South Carolina has a rich literary tradition and an increasingly active book and reading community. The partnership between the State Library and the library school adds a new dimension to our state center program."

The South Carolina Center for the Book will promote books, reading and book culture throughout the state, usually through partnerships with other groups. A seven-person advisory board is being formed. It will include a representative of the South Carolina Humanities Council.

For information about the South Carolina Center for the Book and its plans, contact Jim Johnson, director, South Carolina State Library, 1500 Senate St., Columbia, SC 29201, (803) 734-8666, fax (803) 734-8676.

Yusef El-Amin

Kate Davis, associate editor for *Read* magazine (far left), Anne Boni and Maurvene Williams (far right) were on hand when Beth McGinty, *Read* magazine's national writing contest winner, visited the Library on May 9.

☐ **'Letters About Literature' Grand Prize Winner Visits LC.** Beth McGinty, a freshman at Green Mountain Union High School in Chester, Vt., the grand-prize winner in the 1996 Center for the Book/*Read* magazine national writing contest, visited the Library with her parents on May 9. Her letter was chosen by judges from more than 14,000 letters written by students to favorite authors, each letter explaining how the author's work changed the student's outlook on life.

Beth McGinty wrote to Pavel Friedman, a child incarcerated in the Terezin concentration camp during World War II who wrote a poem "The Butterfly," which was included in the book *I Never Saw Another Butterfly: Children's Drawings and Poems from Terezin Concentration Camp, 1942-1944* (Schocken Books, 1993).

Beth McGinty's letter to Friedman concludes: "I would have liked to save you from the Holocaust, Pavel, but I wasn't alive to see the horror that you witnessed. Now, though, I want more than anything to show you one last butterfly; I want more than anything to give you your childhood. I will feel your pain forever."

Kate Davis, associate editor of *Read* magazine, accompanied Beth and her parents during their four-day trip to Washington. In addition to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Library of Congress and the newly renovated Jefferson Building, they visited members of Congress from Vermont and toured many of the city's museums. The Holocaust Museum was a special highlight.

Nineteen state centers for the book participated in the 1996 "Letters About Literature" contest, honoring winners from each state with $100 prizes. The Vermont program, guided by the Vermont Center for the Book, inspired 150 essays from 20 schools. Deadlines and procedures for the 1997 contest have been announced. For information, write the Letters About Literature Contest, *Read* Magazine, The Weekly Reader Corp., 245 Long Hill Road, Middletown, CT 06457-9291.

Vermont Center for the Book

☐ **Vermont State Center Hosts Sheldon Hackney.** "What does it mean to be an American?" This question is at the heart of the Vermont Center for the Book's A Conversation About the Search for American Identity, a three-year program of book discussions in 128 Vermont libraries that has been developed with the Vermont Department of Libraries, humanities scholars and Vermont's public libraries.

Funded in part with a $230,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), the "conversation" is rooted in 28 book-discussion programs about core American topics, rang-

ing alphabetically from "America Learns: Of Idealism and Practicality" (the books are: *No Place But Here*, by Garret Keizer; *Among* Schoolchildren, by Tracy Kidder; Savage Inequalities, by Jonathan Kozol; and Excellence, by John Gardner) to "Utopias and Dystopias" (the books are: Blithedale Romance, by Nathaniel Hawthorne; *Herland*, by Charlotte Perkins Gilman; *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald; and *The Dispossessed*, by Ursula LeGuin).

Sheldon Hackney, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, was the featured speaker on May 30 at St. Michael's College in Colchester at the Vermont Center for the Book's conference "From Talk to Tactics: The Re-Creation of Community for the 21st Century." As reported in a major article in the May 31 issue of The Burlington Free Press, the meeting was both an assessment and a reaffirmation of the first year of the Vermont project, which Mr. Hackney lauded as "a model, maybe the model" program in NEH's "A National Conversion: On American Pluralism and Identity."

More than 125 people were present, including teachers, students, government officials and members of the public. Center for the Book Director John Cole and NEH Program Officer Tom Phelps participated in the discussion and in a followup meeting organized by Vermont Center for the Book Executive Director Sally Anderson and conference Director Nick Boke.

In describing the overall purpose of the "conversations" program, Mr. Hackney expressed his concern with "a slipping away of our sense of purpose," noting that "the commitment to democracy and self-government is less certain in the minds of people... and that's part of what's at stake here." He listed four forces that have contributed to the "crisis of disaffiliation" in today's America: (1) the social justice movements of the 1960s ("We have not yet digested these fundamental changes"); (2) the development of a global economy; (3) the displacements caused by technological change; and (4) the end of the Cold War ("For all its terror, the Cold War was a comfortable certainty. ... Now we don't know what the new world order is or our place in it.")

Nick Boke

At the end of the conference, it was agreed that the Vermont Center for the Book, with assistance from the national center, would develop a proposal to the NEH for extending the book-based "conversations" program about American identity and communities to other states.

The Vermont Center for the Book has three basic goals: (1) change the culture — every Vermonter a reader; (2) all children are read to; and (3) make books and discussion part of the education culture. Its flagship early-childhood program, "Beginning with Mother Goose," involves parents and professionals working with infants and toddlers in early language development. The "Growing with Books" program shows parents and professionals how to use children's literature to explore developmental issues. Further information is available in the center's 1995 *Annual Report* and in *Reading Matters*, the center's new quarterly journal about books and ideas. For copies and further information, write or call: Vermont Center for the Book, P.O. Box 441, Chester, VT 05143, telephone (800) 763-2665, fax (802) 875-2790, e-mail 73021.2156@CompuServe.com.

Global Library Project

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Mark, Herb Ritts, Gordon Parks and Jack Delano, documentarian Ken Burns, cartoonists Mort Walker and Pat Oliphant, columnist Art Buchwald, satirists Mark Russell and the Capitol Steps, Victor Borge, former Poet Laureate Anthony Hecht, Jody Foster, Norman Lear, Heidi and Irwin Toffler, radio commentators Bob Edwards and G. Gordon Liddy, television producer David Lynch and journalists James Fallows and Helen Thomas.

Materials, artifacts and subject experts from all areas of the Library are featured on the shows. After airing on the Mind Extension University channel, video copies of each production will be made available to libraries and other educational venues for in-class or self-study use. These institutions will be encouraged to supplement the material presented in the videos with items from local libraries and other local educational sources to enhance the value and relevance of the information presented.

Those with cable access to the Mind Extension University channel may view shows from this series on the last Saturday of each month. Consult your television guide for broadcast times.

The first show produced by The Global Library Project, entitled "Freedom's Flame: The National Digital Library", was completed early last year. Aimed at a general audience, its purpose was to encourage continued support of the digitization of the Library's holdings by pointing out the role that information has in preserving freedom. It was recently received a finalist award in the international category of Community Affairs at the New York Film Festival competition.

Descriptions, schedules of upcoming programs as well as suggested lesson plans for use in class are available at the Global Library Project homepage at http://www.meu.edu.

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